

Regular Session, 2012

SENATE BILL NO. 508

BY SENATOR APPEL

EARLY CHILDHOOD ED. Provides relative to early childhood programs. (8/1/12)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:407.1(1) and 407.2, relative to early childhood programs; to  
3 provide for certain education programs; to provide relative to appropriate early  
4 childhood programs for certain young children; to provide for definitions; and to  
5 provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:407.1(1) and 407.2 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as  
8 follows:

9 §407.1. Definitions

10 As used in this Part, the following words, terms, and phrases shall have the  
11 meanings ascribed to them in this Section as follows:

12 (1) "Appropriate early childhood program" means a developmentally  
13 appropriate program for young children, ages ~~three~~ **two** to five years, which is in  
14 compliance with regulatory guidelines to be issued by the department pursuant to this  
15 Part and which is approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary  
16 Education.

17 \* \* \*

## 1 §407.2. Louisiana Early Childhood Opportunity Program

2 The department shall establish the Louisiana Early Childhood Opportunity  
3 Program to assist in the development and funding of appropriate early childhood  
4 programs for educationally at-risk children ages ~~three~~ two to five years. ~~Beginning~~  
5 ~~with the 1992-1993 school year, the~~ The department, with the approval of its  
6 governing authority, shall award grants or contracts to qualified early childhood  
7 programs, including but not limited to Head Start, HIPPY, Parents as Teachers  
8 (PAT), and programs for developmentally disabled and educationally or  
9 environmentally at-risk youngsters, selected by the department in accordance with  
10 specified programmatic standards and guidelines to be established by the department  
11 with the approval of its governing authority.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Sherri H. Breaux.

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## DIGEST

Present law defines "appropriate early childhood program" as a developmentally appropriate program for young children, ages three to five years, which is in compliance with regulatory guidelines issued by the Dept. of Education and approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Proposed law retains present law but also includes, for the purposes of such early childhood programs, children who are two years old.

Present law requires the department to establish the La. Early Childhood Opportunity Program to assist in the development and funding of appropriate early childhood programs for educationally at-risk children ages three to five years. Requires the department, beginning with the 1992-1993 school year, to award grants or contracts to qualified early childhood programs, including but not limited to Head Start, HIPPY, Parents as Teachers (PAT), and programs for developmentally disabled and educationally or environmentally at-risk youngsters, selected by the department in accordance with specified programmatic standards and guidelines.

Proposed law retains present law, but also includes, for the purposes of such program, children who are two years old. Additionally, proposed law removes the outdated reference of the 1992-1993 school year, the date at which the department will begin to award grants or contracts to qualified early childhood programs.

Effective August 1, 2012.

(Amends R.S. 17:407.1(1) and 407.2)